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**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS  
37 CFR §§ 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (b) INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

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As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under § 41 (a) and (b) of title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled below and in:

**Serial Hard Disk Drive Selector**

**X The specification filed herewith.**

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed and I am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR (d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or I am under obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

**X no such person, concern, or organization.**

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate as required in 37 CFR 1.28 (b).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, by imprisonment, or by both under § 1001 of Title 18, United States Code, and that such willfully false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above entitled application or any patent issued thereto.

**Michael J. MALONE**  
Name of Sole or First Inventor

Michael J. Malone  
Signature of First or Sole Inventor

7/7/03  
Date